

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A system for automatically answering a call from a calling party to a called
2 party that originates via the Internet, comprising:
3 a data storage system; and
4 a processor coupled to said data storage system, said processor
5 operative to receive, during said call, a message from said calling party via the
6 Internet, and to store said message in said data storage system for retrieval by
7 said called party via the Internet.

1 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said message is a voicemail
2 message.

1 3. The system according to claim 1, wherein said message is a video
2 message.

1 4. The system according to claim 1, wherein said message contains multi-
2 media information.

1 5. The system according to claim 1, wherein said processor is further
2 operative to determine if said called party is able and willing to accept said
3 call from said calling party prior to receiving and storing said message.

1 6. The system according to claim 1, wherein said processor is further
2 operative to cause a pager notification call to be initiated which is intended
3 to be received by a pager device controlled by said called party, said
4 pager notification call also intended to notify said called party that said
5 message has been stored and is available for delivery via the Internet.

1 7. A system for automatically answering a call from a calling party to a called
2 party that originates via the Internet, comprising:
3 a data storage system; and
4 a processor coupled to said data storage system, said processor
5 operative to initiate an automated call answering service in response to an

6 Internet telephony call from said calling party which is intended to be received by
7 said called party, to receive a message from said calling party via the Internet
8 during said call answering service, and to store said message in said data
9 storage system for later processing by said processor in accordance with said
10 automated call answering service.

1 8. The system according to claim 7, wherein said message is a voice
2 message and said processor later processes said voice message by
3 delivering said voice message to said called party via the internet.

1 9. The system according to claim 7, wherein said message is a video
2 message and said processor later processes said video message by
3 delivering said video message to said called party via the Internet.

1 10. The system according to claim 7, wherein said message contains multi-
2 media information that is later processed by said processor by delivering
3 said multi-media information to said called party via the Internet.

1 11. The system according to claim 7, wherein said automated call answering
2 service is a voicemail service.

1 12. The system according to claim 7, wherein said automated call answering
2 service is a pager notification service.

1 13. The system according to claim 7, wherein said automated call answering
2 service is a fax response service.

1 14. The system according to claim 7, wherein said processor is further
2 operative to cause a pager notification call to be initiated which is intended
3 to be received by a pager device controlled by said called party, said
4 pager notification call intended to notify said called party that said
5 message has been stored and is available for delivery in accordance with
6 said automated call answering service.

1 15. A method for automatically answering a call from a calling party to a called
2 party that originates via the Internet, comprising the steps of:

3 receiving a message from said calling party via the Internet;

4 storing said message for retrieval by said called party; and

5 delivering said message to said called party via the Internet.

1 16. The method according to claim 15, wherein said message is a voicemail
2 message.

1 17. The method according to claim 15, wherein said message is a video
2 message.

1 18. The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of
2 determining whether said called party is able and willing to accept said
3 call from said calling party, said determining step being carried out prior to
4 said receiving, storing, and delivering steps.

1 19. The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of initiating
2 a pager notification call to be received by a pager device controlled by
3 said called party and to notify said called party that said message has
4 been stored and is available for delivery.

1 20. A method for automatically answering a call from a calling party that is
2 intended to be received by a called party that originates via the Internet,
3 comprising the steps of:

4 initiating an automated call answering service in response to an Internet
5 telephony call from said calling party;

6 receiving a message from said calling party via the Internet in accordance
7 with automated said call answering service; and

8 storing said message in accordance with said automated call answering
9 service.

1 21. The method according to claim 20, wherein said call answering service is a
2 voicemail service and said message is a voicemail message.

1 22. The method according to claim 20, wherein said call answering service is a
2 videophone service and said message includes video data.

1 23. The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of delivering
2 said message to said called party via the Internet.

1 24. The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of determining
2 if said called party will receive said call from said calling party via the Internet
3 prior to carrying out said initiating, receiving, and storing steps.

1 25. The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of initiating a
2 pager notification call to said called party, said pager notification call intended
3 to be received by a pager device controlled by said called party and to notify
4 said called party that said message has been recorded and is available for
5 delivery.

1 26. The method according to claim 25, wherein said pager notification call further
2 notifies said called party that said message is available for delivery via the
3 internet by including an indication of a web site uniform resource locator
4 (URL).